

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Docket No.: CIMA 3.0-036
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :
Pather et al. :
Application No.: 09/901,983 : Group Art Unit: 1615
Filed: July 10, 2001 : Examiner: Carlos Azpuru
For: SEQUENTIAL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS :
:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2002 in the above-identified patent application. The undersigned counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview held at the Examiner's office on November 5, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending. In the Office Action, all claims have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,264,981 to Zhang et al ("Zhang").

At the November 5 interview, the undersigned counsel presented arguments that Zhang is deficient as a basis for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Examiner indicated and so stated in the Interview Summary Record that the application would be in condition for allowance if, upon additional review of Zhang, the Examiner confirms these deficiencies. The

RECEIVED
NOV 13 PM 2:32
CENTER 1600/2900